Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph 3 beginning on line 21 of page 3 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 1(A) is phase diagram of a prior art ternary aqueous phase system comprising water, ethanol and glycerol monooleate~~; (A) of the prior art~~ showing the various ordered and semi-ordered structures as a function of the relative concentrations of each of the three components comprising the system; Fig. 1(B) is phase diagram of the inventive ternary aqueous phase system comprising water, ethanol and glycerol monooleate ~~of the present invention~~ where in addition to the known ordered phases from the prior art, a semi-ordered phase herein defined as QL phase is present.

Please amend paragraph 1 beginning on line 3 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 3(A) shows a freeze-fracture electron microscope (cryo-TEM) image of the QL phase of the present invention (Example 1) where different levels of organizations are observed. FIG. 3(B) ~~Shows~~ shows the cubic organization.

Please amend paragraph 2 beginning on line 6 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 4(A) is a representation of the FFT (Fourier Transform) of the cryo-TEM image shown in FIG. ~~3A~~ 3(A) showing different geometrical organizations in the system. FIG. 4(B) is a representation of the FFT (Fourier Transform) of the cryo-TEM image shown in FIG. 3(B) showing different geometrical organizations in the system.

Please amend paragraph 3 beginning on line 8 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 5(A) is a representation of a SAXS (Small Angle X-ray diffraction) diffraction of ~~three different compositions~~ a composition within the QL domain including 51.0 wt% water, 11.4 wt% ethanol, and 37.6 wt% GMO. FIG. 5(B) is a representation of a SAXS (Small Angle X-ray diffraction) diffraction of a composition within the QL domain including 53.3 wt% water, 11.6 wt% ethanol, and 35.1 wt% GMO. FIG. 5(C) is a representation of a SAXS (Small Angle X-ray diffraction) diffraction of a composition within the QL domain including 52.4 wt% water, 11.5 wt% ethanol, and 36.1 wt% GMO. ~~differing in their water/ethanol/GMO contents (as indicated above each of the demonstrated diffractions).~~

Please amend paragraph 5 beginning on line 13 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 7(A) is a representation of a SAXS diffraction of several different compositions (S1 and S2) which vary ~~varying~~ in their alcohol contents where the water:fatty acid (or ester thereof) is kept constant. ~~(designated S2, S3, S4 and S5 in FIG. 2)~~ FIG. 7(B) is a representation of a SAXS diffraction of several different compositions (S4 and S5) which vary in their alcohol content where the water:fatty acid (or ester thereof) is kept constant. FIG. 7(C) is a representation of a SAXS diffraction of several different compositions (S2 and S4,S5) which vary in their alcohol content where the water:fatty acid (or ester thereof) is kept constant.

Please amend paragraph 6 beginning on line 16 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 8(A) is a cryo-TEM of a QL phase containing 36.1 wt % GMO; 11.5 wt % ethanol; and 52.4 wt % water, and FIG. 8(B) is the FFT showing the cubic organization of the phase.

Please amend paragraph 7 beginning on line 19 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 9(A) is a cryo-TEM of a QL phase containing 38.3 wt % GMO; 11.2 wt % ethanol; and 50.5 wt % water, and FIG. 9(B) is the FFT showing the cubic organization of the phase.

Please amend paragraph 8 beginning on line 16 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 10(A) is representation of a ~~the~~ SAXS diffraction of a system comprising water:2-pyrrolidone:GMO at a ratio of 50 wt %:20 wt %: 30 wt %; FIG. 10(B) is a representation of a cryo-TEM of the QL phase formed by the system described in FIG. 10(A) after it has been dispersed in a polymer. FIG. 10(C) shows ~~The figure showing~~ an enlargement of a cubic phase island ~~(C)~~ and is a representation of a cryo-TEM of the system described in FIG. 10(A) and its FFT showing cubic organization.

Please amend paragraph 9 beginning on line 27 of page 4 of the present specification, as follows:

FIG. 11(A) is the SAXS diffraction of a system comprising water:propanol:GMO at a ratio of 55.1 wt %:8.3 wt %: 36.6 wt %, and FIG. 11(B) is a cryo-TEM of the system described in FIG. 11(A) and its FFT showing cubic organization.